

**PRESS RELEASE OF MIKAL WATTS**

**April 25, 2018**

Last night, I was informed by colleagues of mine also working the GMO corn suit against Syngenta that a lawyer in Minnesota whom I have never heard of had filed a class action suit yesterday evening against myself and others. While I have not yet been served with, nor had the opportunity to read, the suit this lawyer filed, this lawsuit is worth less than the \$400 it took for this single lawyer to file it. In fact, his lawsuit is not worth the paper it is written on, nor the ink it took to pollute the pages of his petition. This lawsuit is without merit, and it is frivolous.

The lawyer who filed the case is completely unknown to me – perhaps because he has done not one bit of work to help the American corn farmer in their lawsuit against Syngenta. He has taken no deposition in the case, prepared no witness for trial, nor participated in any of the years of hard work it took to cause this settlement of which he now complains. By contrast, my firm has spent tens of millions of dollars and invested tens of thousands of hours, and worked over the past four years with other fine law firms across the Corn Belt, who collectively applied the herculean pressure required to force Syngenta to settle this case brought on behalf of American corn farmers for \$1.5 billion.

Every bit of work in this case has been done ethically, following consultations with ethics experts in various states. The settlement with Syngenta followed many months of conscientious work by two court-appointed special masters who oversaw the parties' negotiations. Together with three others, I was specifically appointed by four different courts to negotiate this agreement on behalf of all plaintiffs. I worked diligently and ethically to achieve the task I was appointed to undertake, and did so at the direction of two excellent special masters operating under the careful supervision of three judges, in both state and federal courts. Early objections to the settlement have been overruled, and the settlement has been preliminarily approved by a United States District Judge.

Writing false accusations against law firms you have never met does not a legitimate lawsuit make. This is not a real lawsuit; it is merely a collateral attack on a settlement by one lawyer who has done 'nil on this case. If he, and his grand total of only two clients that Lawyer Nill has managed to round up - out of over 55,000 farmers I represent in this case - wish to attack this settlement, they should do so by filing the appropriate objections before the federal judge with exclusive jurisdiction over this settlement. To be clear, I am recommending this settlement to my clients because the settlement is in their best interests.

We will vigorously defend this frivolous lawsuit filed yesterday, and will defeat it with both facts and law, and with the same diligence, ethical conduct and hard work that it took to achieve this settlement on behalf of farmers across America in the first place.